



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Amendment

LCO No. 8681



Offered by:

SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

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To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 968

File No. 234

Cal. No. 137

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY TO MACHINISTS PROGRAM FOR VETERANS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that
5 makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information
6 technologies integrated with a high-performance work force in a
7 production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of
8 products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of mass
9 production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order to
10 respond quickly to customer demands. "Advanced manufacturing"
11 includes newly developed methods to manufacture existing products
12 and the manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced
13 technologies;

14 (2) "Eligible business" means a business that (A) has operations in
15 Connecticut, (B) has been registered to conduct business for not less
16 than twelve months, and (C) is in good standing with respect to the
17 payment of all state and local taxes. "Eligible business" does not
18 include the state or any political subdivision thereof;

19 (3) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
20 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes;

21 (4) "Public institution of higher education" means any of the
22 institutions of higher education identified in subdivision (2) of section
23 10a-1 of the general statutes;

24 (5) "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program" means
25 a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced manufacturing
26 certificate program offered by a public institution of higher education
27 or a private occupational school in which at least seventy-five per cent
28 of the graduates of such certificate program are employed in a field
29 related to or requiring such certificate in the year following
30 graduation; and

31 (6) "Veteran" means any person (A) honorably discharged from, or
32 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
33 forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or (B) with a
34 qualifying condition, as defined in section 27-103 of the general
35 statutes, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
36 dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

37 (b) Not later than October 1, 2019, the work force development
38 board for the southwest work force development region of the state
39 shall develop and operate a pilot program to be known as the Military
40 to Machinists program for veterans. The program shall assist any
41 veteran in a region served by the pilot program in (1) earning an
42 advanced manufacturing certificate from a qualifying advanced
43 manufacturing certificate program, and (2) securing employment in
44 the field of advanced manufacturing with any eligible business after
45 such veteran has obtained an advanced manufacturing certificate.

46 (c) (1) The work force development board for the southwest work
47 force development region of the state shall designate an appropriate
48 number of employees, as determined by the board, to act as liaisons,
49 and each liaison shall provide the assistance described in subsection
50 (b) of this section on behalf of the program.

51 (2) In connection with providing the assistance described in
52 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated
53 pursuant to this subsection shall also assist a veteran served by the
54 program to obtain funding for the cost of attending a qualifying
55 advanced manufacturing certificate program. Such funding may
56 include, but need not be limited to, (A) tuition waivers under sections
57 10a-77 and 10a-99 of the general statutes, and (B) expenditures from
58 the Workforce Training Authority Fund under section 31-11jj of the
59 general statutes.

60 (3) In connection with providing the assistance described in
61 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, each liaison designated
62 pursuant to this subsection shall also assist any eligible business to
63 apply for (A) a grant under section 31-3uu of the general statutes, and
64 (B) tax credits under section 12-217g of the general statutes, if
65 applicable.

66 (d) The work force development board for the southwest work force
67 development region of the state shall operate the pilot program within
68 its work force development region. The board may offer the program
69 in other work force development regions in the state, in conjunction
70 with the appropriate regional work force development board.

71 (e) Not later than February 1, 2020, the work force development
72 board for the southwest work force development region of the state
73 shall develop or approve promotional materials describing the pilot
74 program and the various opportunities and benefits that the program
75 may provide for veterans in the state. The board shall distribute such
76 materials to qualified veterans' charitable organizations, as described
77 in subsection (b) of section 27-100f of the general statutes, and

78 Operation Academic Support for Incoming Service Members centers.
79 The board shall revise and redistribute the materials as the board
80 deems appropriate.

81 (f) Not later than February 1, 2020, and annually thereafter until the
82 pilot program is terminated, the work force development board for the
83 southwest work force development region of the state shall report on
84 the operation of the pilot program and its recommendation to
85 continue, discontinue or expand the program. Such report shall
86 include measures of the effectiveness of the program, including, but
87 not be limited to, data on the (1) number of veterans served by the
88 pilot program; (2) number of veterans pursuing or earning advanced
89 manufacturing certificates through the program and the type and
90 amount of funding assistance received by the veterans; and (3) number
91 of veterans securing employment in the field of advanced
92 manufacturing with an eligible business through the program, the
93 salaries earned by such veterans, the number of such veterans
94 retaining employment in advanced manufacturing over time and the
95 number and amount of grants and tax credits received by eligible
96 businesses hiring such veterans. The board shall submit the report, in
97 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
98 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
99 cognizance of matters relating to veterans' affairs.

100 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than October 1,
101 2019, the work force development board for the southwest work force
102 development region of the state shall develop and operate a pilot
103 program to be known as the Veterans Platform to Employment
104 Program. The program shall provide training and subsidized
105 employment for veterans who have experienced long-term
106 unemployment in a similar manner to the Platform to Employment
107 Program currently operated by such board. The pilot program shall
108 provide veterans in a region served by the program with (1) a
109 preparatory program that includes services such as skills assessments,
110 career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs and
111 coaching, and (2) employment assistance that includes identifying

112 positions at local employers and providing subsidies to employers that
113 hire veterans for trial work experiences that may lead to continued
114 employment. The pilot program may offer additional services to assist
115 veterans, including personal and family support services and financial
116 counseling. As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (A)
117 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
118 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of
119 the general statutes, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in
120 section 27-103 of the general statutes, who has received a discharge
121 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the
122 armed forces.

123 (b) The work force development board for the southwest work force
124 development region of the state shall operate the pilot program within
125 its work force development region. The board may offer the program
126 in other work force development regions in the state, in conjunction
127 with the appropriate regional work force development board.

128 (c) Not later than February 1, 2020, and annually thereafter until the
129 pilot program is terminated, the work force development board for the
130 southwest work force development region of the state shall submit a
131 report on the operation of the pilot program and its recommendation
132 to continue, discontinue or expand the program. Such report shall
133 include measures of the effectiveness of the program, including, but
134 not limited to, data on the (1) number of veterans served by the
135 program, (2) number of veterans placed with employers by the
136 program and the salaries earned by such veterans, and (3) number of
137 such veterans retaining employment over time. The board shall submit
138 the report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
139 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
140 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' affairs.

141 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) Not later than October 1,
142 2019, the work force development board for the southwest work force
143 development region of the state shall identify appropriate written
144 materials to distribute to employers on the topic of mental health

145 conditions common to veterans, including post-traumatic stress
146 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief. Such materials shall
147 provide guidance on (1) identifying the signs and symptoms of such
148 mental health conditions, and (2) assisting employees who are veterans
149 and who exhibit such signs and symptoms in the workplace. The
150 board shall distribute such materials to employers participating in or
151 who may participate in the pilot programs established under sections 1
152 and 2 of this act, and may distribute the materials to other employers
153 that may hire veterans.

154 Sec. 4. Section 31-3w of the general statutes is repealed and the
155 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

156 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Labor
157 Commissioner, in exercise of any duties including any duties as
158 administrator under chapter 567, shall, within available resources,
159 maintain a state-wide network of job centers which provide to
160 workers, students and employers comprehensive workforce
161 development assistance, including, but not limited to, the following:

162 (1) Unemployment compensation, retraining allowances and other
163 forms of federal and state income support;

164 (2) Career, labor market, educational and job training information,
165 and consumer reports on local training providers;

166 (3) Career planning and job search assistance;

167 (4) Applicant recruitment and screening, assessment of training
168 needs, customized job training pursuant to this chapter, apprenticeship
169 programs pursuant to chapter 557 and related consultative services to
170 employers based on their employment needs;

171 (5) Eligibility determinations and referrals to providers of
172 employment and training services; and

173 (6) Access to information regarding job openings and, where
174 appropriate, referral to such openings.

175 (b) In carrying out responsibilities under this section, the
176 commissioner shall:

177 (1) Collaborate with the Connecticut Employment and Training
178 Commission established pursuant to section 31-3h and the regional
179 workforce development boards established pursuant to section 31-3k;

180 (2) Promote coordination of service delivery and collaboration with
181 other public and private providers of education, human services and
182 employment and training services, including, but not limited to, adult
183 education and literacy providers;

184 (3) Consult with the Commissioner of Economic and Community
185 Development to ensure coordination of service delivery to employers;

186 (4) Conduct outreach to employers and trade associations to ensure
187 that services meet the needs of business and industry; and

188 (5) Develop a comprehensive job training assistance application for
189 employer-based training services and programs that allows the
190 applicant to apply for any such assistance offered by the state in one
191 application.

192 (c) (1) When contacted by a veteran who is in need of employment
193 or work force development services, the department shall (A)
194 determine whether the veteran resides closer to a work force
195 development board facility with a veterans unit than to a department
196 facility offering such employment or work force development
197 assistance and, if so, provide the veteran with contact information for
198 the work force development board, and (B) provide a veteran who
199 expresses an interest in advanced manufacturing, as defined in section
200 1 of this act, with information on the Military to Machinists program
201 operated pursuant to section 1 of this act, if such veteran may be
202 eligible for services from such program.

203 (2) For purposes of this subsection, "veteran" means any person (A)
204 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions

205 from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of
206 the general statutes, or (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in
207 section 27-103 of the general statutes, who has received a discharge
208 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the
209 armed forces."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	31-3w